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IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS
IN SOFIA INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT

3 CHILD CENTERS UNDER CONSTRUCTION -- Izgrev, No 1605, 16 Dec 49

Living conditions in Dimitrovo, an industrial district of Sofia, are being intensively improved. A child center was completed recently, and three more are under construction; housing for 5,000 people, a polyclinic, a department store and two markets have been erected, and a large park has been landscaped by women of the local brigades. A motion-picture theater with large meeting halls will be opened shortly.

Public works are also being expanded. There were only 87,000 cubic meters of paved streets prior to 9 September 1944; 69,000 cubic meters have been added since, as well as 101,000 square meters of highway and 4,000 square meters of stone pavement. The district bathhouse has been equipped with a swimming pool, and 14 kilometers of sewers and 6 kilometers of water mains have been laid. About 60 groceries were opened for the convenience of local residents, as well as 12 restaurants, 29 butcher shops, and 40 creameries of the Serdika Central Dairy.

Living conditions of the gypsy population are also being improved: an elementary school and a library have been opened for this minority group, and a health center is under construction. The Tutrakan trunk line has been laid, the streetcar line expanded to reach the sugar factory, and transportation has been extended to remote districts.

Besides the 428 apartments erected so far in the Dimitrovo district, 1,000 more will be completed for miners prior to 9 September 1950. Up to 1 January 1949, the government spent 526,251,359 leva for housing construction for the mining population of the district, and 423,043,155 more have been spent since then. About 122 additional apartments and bachelor rooms will be completed before the end of the year. Miners of the Pirin Mine have 96 apartments so far and will be provided with two more housing blocks in 1950.

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The housing blocks have been provided with shopping facilities, canteens, schools, libraries, gymnasiums, bakeries, laundries, etc. Expenditures totaling 43,396,000 leva have been made since 9 September 1944 for mine workers' canteens, supplying meals to 4,700 miners, and 38,000,000 leva for bathhouses and laundries. Miners' family subsidies have been increased from 100 to 300 levas for the first child, and childbirth subsidies from 2,000 to 8,000 leva. The larger mines have established child centers and nurseries; 14,991,500 leva have been spent since 1945 for this purpose.

The mining city of Dimitrovo has been provided with 29 libraries containing 39,637 volumes, and 6,300,000 leva have been spent for the purchase of reading material. The Pirin Mine contains a youth center with 168 beds, and a large library and a school are under construction for the children of the Pirin Mine district, as well as for those of the other miners of Dimitrograd. The schools are endeavoring to disseminate the experience of Soviet miners among the young miners of Bulgaria. Only two rest homes for miners were in operation prior to 1944, whereas there are nine operating at present and taking care of 4,700 miners. Also, 57,742,000 leva have been spent for summer camps, 311,589,479 for medical treatment, and 21,000,000 for miners' sport stadiums and their equipment.

RESTRICT BREAD CONSUMPTION -- Izgrev, No 1600, 11 Dec 49

The Trade and Food Division of the Sofia People's Soviet has issued an order for strict economy in bread consumption. Restaurants, hotels, bars, cafes, and all other establishments serving bread on ration coupons will cut the rationed amount into four slices and charge 8 leva a slice. Bread served without coupons will be cut into eight slices at 15 leva each. Leftover bread will be served to other customers.

Public institutions, such as hospitals, canteens, charitable institutions, etc., are advised to avoid any waste of bread, and violations will be penalized.

The local unions will instruct workers and employees to observe strict economy in bread consumption.

It is definitely prohibited to sell bread on Thursdays, with or without coupons.

ESTABLISH PRICE COMMISSION -- Durzhaven Vestnik, No 282, 5 Dec 49

On 1 December 1949 the Presidium of the Great National Assembly issued a decree establishing a price commission, organized as follows:

The commission, an auxiliary organ of the Council of Ministers, consists of a chairman, who is the deputy chairman of the State Planning Commission, and of members who are the Deputy Ministers of Finance, Domestic Trade, Foreign Trade, and Industry, respectively.

The commission is to establish a planned price policy system and to enforce government price regulations.

All measures are subject to the approval of the Council of Ministers, which will establish prices in accordance with reports prepared by the commission and transmit them to the various departments and enterprises, which will fix their prices accordingly.

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The Main Office of Price Administration will be stricken from the 1950 state budget, and the funds will be transferred to the Ministry of Finance.

Price controls will be carried out by an inspection commission established under the Ministry of Domestic Trade. Its organization, functions, and assignments will be determined by the Council of Ministers.

The present price rates for goods, services, wages, tariffs, etc., will remain in force until revocation.

The present decree abolishes the Main Price Administration (established in 1947), as well as all laws and regulations which may contradict its enforcement. It is put into effect on the day of its publication in the official State Herald. The Chairman of the Council of Ministers is responsible for its enforcement.

(Signed): Dr M. Neychev, Chairman of the Presidium of the Great National Assembly

D. Popkristov, Secretary of the Presidium of the Great National Assembly

R. Naydenov, Minister of Justice

INTRODUCE NEW SOCIAL SECURITY REGULATIONS -- Izgrev, No 1600, 11 Dec 49

The social security law introduced on 1 January 1949 raises the yearly retirement pension of the average worker from the 4,500 leva paid in 1944 to 19,000 leva. Retirement payments are now computed on a basis of 50 percent of the average wage received by the worker during the last 5 consecutive years of employment, with a minimum of 10 years of employment.

The old-age pension minimum is 36,000 leva yearly. When a worker wishes to continue work, after reaching retirement age, he may do so, and 2 percent will be added to his pension for every additional year of employment.

Disabled workers will receive a minimum pension of 27,000 leva yearly, independent of any other payments or wages if they continue to work.

Pensions for accidents have also been increased and amount to 90 percent of regular wages; the exact figure is based on the extent of disability resulting from the accident. Accident insurance has been considerably expanded and now encompasses every type of occupational accident, including those incurred in work-brigade activities.

Medical treatment is also provided by insurance. Retired workers and their families receive free medical aid at the expense of the Social Security Institute. The treatments are extended from 9 to 12 months, and there is no time limit for the treatment of accident disabilities, tuberculosis, or occupational diseases.

According to a 1947 law, the privilege of free medical treatment has been extended to the families of workers, employees, technicians, etc. During 1944, 81 million leva were spent for the medical treatment of workers, whereas in 1947, after including families under the benefits of the law, the expenditures reached 730 million, and 970 million in 1948. The 1949 budget provided 1,300 million leva for this purpose.

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Daily subsidies during illness amounted to 43 million leva in 1944, 324 million in 1947, and 356 million in 1948. Every enterprise employing more than 200 people must provide a permanent physician; larger enterprises must also provide a dentist. The right of free medical treatment is acquired after one month of membership in the Illness and Maternity Association, but work accidents are treated without any insurance claims. All insurance fees are paid by the enterprise.

The Institute of Social Security has established five workers' hospitals, one sanatorium, 127 polyclinics, and three preventoriums. Fifteen health resorts have been organized for the summer season.

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